



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 28 March 2007

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

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Daily Highlights

- Army officials announced Monday that a government laptop computer containing the names, Social Security numbers and payroll information of roughly 16,000 Army Training and Doctrine Command civilian employees was stolen this month from an employee's vehicle parked outside her home. (See item [7](#))
- The Department of Homeland Security will begin testing air cargo screening technologies this spring at the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport as part of the department's previously announced \$30 million Air Cargo Explosives Detection Pilot Program. (See item [11](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *March 27, Platts Energy Bulletin* — **California to import more crude as domestic, Alaska output falls.** Dwindling crude production in California and Alaska amid expansions in refining capacities will lead Californian refiners to meet their crude oil requirements through imports, said Gordon Schremp of the California Energy Commission at the Platts California Fuel Conference in Long Beach, CA, Monday, March 26. "Despite the current high prices, the decline in California's crude production will continue...California's production has fallen from

its peak of about 1.16 million barrels/day in 1985 to 685,000 b/d in 2006," Schremp said. In 2005, crude imports into California amounted to about 1.1 million b/d while in 2015 this is expected to rise to between 1.3 and 1.5 million b/d. "Alaskan crude production has declined 60 percent since 1986 and declining domestic oil production will need to be replaced with increased imports of crude oil from foreign sources," Schremp said.

Source: <http://www.platts.com/Oil/News/7195232.xml?sub=Oil&p=Oil/News>

2. *March 27, New York Times* — **City report defends Con Ed for key choice in blackout.**

Lawyers for the Bloomberg administration are defending Consolidated Edison's decision not to shut down the electrical network that failed in western Queens last July, causing a nine-day blackout. While critical of Con Edison over all, a 247-page report given to City Council members Monday, March 26, disputes a key finding by state regulators, who concluded that the utility's decision to try to keep the entire network running after parts of it began to fail was a mistake that prolonged the blackout. The report, prepared by law firm Couch White, was submitted to the state's Public Service Commission (PSC) on March 2. In January, PSC staff found that Con Edison's failure to adequately maintain, operate and oversee equipment was "the overriding cause" of the blackout. But in a 35-page supplement including the city's official comments on that report, Couch White lawyers Robert Loughney and Moshe Bonder, were much more cautious. Loughney and Bonder concluded only that "better preparation and responsiveness by Con Edison could have reduced the likelihood of the Long Island City outage and decreased its impact." Similarly, they labeled as "unsubstantiated" the Public Service Commission's conclusion that Con Edison should have shut down the network.

Report: http://www.dps.state.ny.us/06E0894_NYCity_Report.pdf

City's comments: [http://www.dps.state.ny.us/06E0894_NYCity_Initial_Comments.p df](http://www.dps.state.ny.us/06E0894_NYCity_Initial_Comments.pdf)

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2007/03/27/nyregion/27council.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

3. *March 27, Knoxville News Sentinel (TN)* — **Tanker fire kills driver, shuts down interstate ramp.** Crews on Monday, March 26, repaved a 200-foot-long section of a flyover ramp near Knoxville, TN, charred by a fiery tanker truck crash that claimed one life and forced thousands of drivers to find alternate travel routes. For more than 15 hours Monday the ramp from westbound Interstate 640 to eastbound I-40 was closed to traffic. A gasoline tanker truck owned by Barger Leasing Inc., of Hilton, VA, crashed on the ramp early Monday morning. The tanker had been loaded with 7,900 gallons of gasoline and 800 gallons of ethanol at the tank farm on Middlebrook Pike. The unidentified male driver from upper East Tennessee was supposed to take the load to Gatlinburg. But when the tanker had gone about three miles, it toppled onto its side on the flyover ramp and slid a couple hundred feet before coming to rest and bursting into flames. Flames were so high and intense that emergency workers closed I-40 in both directions for an hour because of fears electrical transmission wires over the road would melt and drop onto traffic. A river of fire also ignited the hillside along I-40 under the flyover.

Source: http://www.knoxnews.com/kns/traffic/article/0.1406.KNS_358_5_444782.00.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

4. *March 27, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-672T: Defense Acquisitions: Future Combat System Risks Underscore the Importance of Oversight (Testimony).** The Army's Future Combat System (FCS) is a program characterized by bold goals and innovative concepts—transformational capabilities, system-of-systems approach, new technologies, a first-of-a-kind information network, and a total investment cost of more than \$200 billion. As such, the FCS program is considered high risk and in need of special oversight and review. This testimony is based on work conducted over the past year in response to (1) the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, which requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to report annually on the FCS acquisition; and (2) the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007, which requires GAO to report on the role of the lead systems integrator in the Army's FCS program. Accordingly, this statement discusses (1) the business case for FCS to be successful and (2) the business arrangements for the FCS program. GAO has recently recommended that the Secretary of Defense (1) establish specific criteria for evaluating the FCS program at a key 2009 decision and (2) analyze alternative courses of action in the event FCS is unlikely to deliver needed capabilities. The Department of Defense concurred with GAO's recommendations.
Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07672thigh.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-672T>
5. *March 26, U.S. Air Force* — **Air Force announces milestone in force transformation.** The secretary of the Air Force and chief of staff recently announced the completion of the next phase of Total Force Integration (TFI) initiatives after discussions with Airmen from active-duty, Guard and Reserve organizations. This phase of TFI initiatives includes nearly 140 missions and represents a compilation of all previous TFI phases and efforts. More than 90 of these initiatives are already funded with more to soon to follow; among them approximately 45 percent are associations between active-duty, Guard and/or Reserve forces. The remaining 55 percent are new, emerging or stand-alone missions. TFI initiatives span the entire Air Force mission spectrum, including unmanned aerial systems, intelligence operations, logistics, civil support, training, myriad flying platforms, space and cyberspace. As the Air Force invests in emerging technology, such as the Predator or distributed ground systems, it will move forward with all three components playing an active role in new mission formation.
Source: <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123046362>

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Banking and Finance Sector

6. *March 27, Washington Post* — **Ordinary customers flagged as terrorists.** Private businesses such as rental and mortgage companies and car dealers are checking the names of customers against a list of suspected terrorists and drug traffickers made publicly available by the Department of the Treasury, sometimes denying services to ordinary people whose names are similar to those on the list. The Office of Foreign Asset Control's (OFAC) list of "specially designated nationals" has long been used by banks and other financial institutions to block financial transactions of drug dealers and other criminals. But an executive order issued by

President Bush after the September 11, 2001, attacks has expanded the list and its consequences in unforeseen ways. Molly Millerwise, a Department of the Treasury spokesperson, said that the department has extensive guidance on compliance, both on the OFAC Website and in workshops with industry representatives.

OFAC Website: <http://www.treas.gov/offices/enforcement/ofac/>

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/03/26/AR2007032602088.html>

7. *March 27, Daily Press (VA)* — **Stolen Army laptop had payroll data.** A government laptop computer containing the names, Social Security numbers and payroll information of roughly 16,000 Army Training and Doctrine Command civilian employees was stolen this month from an employee's vehicle parked outside her home, Army officials announced Monday, March 26. The Training and Doctrine Command, or TRADOC, is headquartered at Fort Monroe in Hampton, VA. The theft occurred near Fort Lee, a TRADOC Army base near Petersburg, VA. While the data on the computer included payroll information, Army officials said the database didn't contain bank account or bank routing numbers. The computer is password protected and uses a security device called a common access card. Without both the card and the password, the computer is locked. As of Monday, there was no indication the information had been tampered with, an Army spokesman said.
Source: http://www.dailypress.com/news/local/dp-90888sy0mar27.0.6555_709.story
8. *March 26, Associated Press* — **Giuliani campaign fixes dangerous flaw on new Website.** Republican presidential front-runner Rudy Giuliani's campaign hurriedly fixed its official Website late Monday, March 26, to remove a dangerous design flaw that could have allowed hackers to expose personal information submitted by volunteers. The vulnerability affecting Giuliani's site could have exposed confidential information stored in the campaign's databases. The Website failed to block commands that can instruct it to improperly display sensitive information, a popular hacking technique known as "structured query language injection." No personal information was compromised, spokesperson Maria Comella said.
Source: <http://www.abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory?id=2983511>
9. *March 26, Reuters (UK)* — **Survey says one in 10 Britain residents is victim of online fraud.** One in 10 Internet users fell victim to online fraud last year, losing an average of \$1,720 each, according to a survey on Monday, March 26. Many failed to take basic steps to protect themselves online and fewer than half felt they were wholly responsible for their safety while using the Internet. Six percent had suffered fraud while shopping online, four percent had experienced general fraud and three percent were subject to bank or credit card crime. The survey of 2,400 people was carried out by YouGov for Get Safe Online, a campaign group set up by the UK government, police and private companies. Nearly half said they did not have protection from spyware, computer software that secretly collects personal information when people use the Internet.
Source: http://uk.reuters.com/article/internetNews/idUKL262510832007_0326
10. *March 26, InformationWeek* — **Hundreds of Gmail, Yahoo, MSN passwords exposed by entertainment Website.** A Los Angeles publisher of online lifestyle and entertainment magazines has inadvertently exposed the personal e-mail addresses and passwords for hundreds of its subscribers. The victims are all members of sites operated by Splash Magazines

Worldwide, which publishes local versions of its magazines under URLs like NYCSplash.com and LASplash.com. The list of e-mail addresses and passwords for members' Gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo, and other accounts would turn up in the results of unrelated Google searches Monday, March 26, if those searches happened to contain at least two keywords that matched the names of Splash members. InformationWeek confirmed that the security hole was still open as of 4 p.m. Monday. Splash founder Larry Davis said in an interview that he was not aware of the security problem and did not know how it could have occurred.

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/software/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=MTIA0KNAD2GKEQSNLPSKH0CJUNN2JVN?articleID=198700206&articleID=198700206>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

11. *March 26, Department of Homeland Security* — **Aircraft cargo screening program to begin at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport.** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will begin testing air cargo screening technologies this spring at the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG) as part of the department's previously announced \$30 million Air Cargo Explosives Detection Pilot Program (ACEDPP). The CVG pilot program is designed to test the screening of significant amounts of cargo within an air cargo facility and will focus on areas to include assessing the flow and speed of cargo screening. The ACEDPP was launched in June 2006 and is currently conducting pilot programs at the San Francisco International Airport and at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. Testing of this nature will provide critical knowledge to help the Transportation Security Administration make future decisions on air cargo and assist in technological research and development planning for the nation's air cargo security infrastructure.

Source: http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1174939478443.shtm

12. *March 26, Fox News* — **Border agent sentenced to six years for accepting cash, cars from illegal immigrant smugglers.** An American border inspector was sentenced Monday, March 26, to nearly six years in prison for taking cash and cars from smugglers, allowing them to shuttle illegal immigrants from Mexico into the United States. Richard Elizalda, a 10-year veteran of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, worked at the world's busiest border crossing, the San Ysidro Port of Entry between Tijuana, Mexico, and San Diego, CA. Investigators said he sent text messages directing smugglers to his inspection lane, then waved their vehicles through. In return, he received as much as \$1,000 for each immigrant, totaling \$120,000 in cash starting in 2004.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,261363,00.html>

13. *March 26, WABC-TV (NJ)* — **CDC: Sick airline passengers had seasonal flu.** Officials say passengers on a Continental flight from Hong Kong were allowed to get off a plane at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey on Monday afternoon, March 26, after being held for two hours because some passengers reported feeling ill. Dave Messing, a spokesperson for Houston-based Continental Airlines, said the crew aboard the plane noticed several passengers appeared ill, and airline officials notified health authorities in the U.S. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) spokesperson Karen Hunter said seven passengers boarded the

plane with flu-like symptoms and during the 15-hour flight, other passengers began to exhibit the symptoms. "It was determined the symptoms were consistent with possible seasonal influenza and there was no reason to believe it was more serious," said CDC spokesperson Glen Nowak. Continental Airlines and the CDC believe the ill passengers were part of a group of more than 80 tourists who sailed together on a river cruise in Asia. The final destination of the group, after switching planes in Newark, is Montreal, Canada.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/story?section=local&id=5152451>

14. **March 24, *Seattle Times* — Chertoff visits Washington to endorse security-enhanced driver's IDs.** Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Michael Chertoff visited Seattle, WA, on Friday, March 23, to help Governor Christine Gregoire kick off a pilot program that will allow Washington state residents to use a security-enhanced driver's license, rather than a passport, to travel to and from Canada. Chertoff predicted the new licenses will help meet the department's dual goals of enhancing security and reducing wait-times at the border. The enhanced licenses, which are expected to be available in January, will cost \$40, versus \$97 for a passport. They will contain technology required by the federal government to facilitate rapid identification checks at border crossings, similar to chips already embedded in U.S. passports. They could also enable cross-checks with criminal databases and other information sets. If successful, the pilot program could be expanded to other border states as an alternative way to meet the requirements of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, which would require anyone crossing the U.S. border to have a passport beginning in June 2009.

Source: http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2003633800_chertoff24m.html

15. **March 23, *GovExec* — CBP prepares to expand expedited import tracking.** The Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agency is pushing forward with a program aimed at expediting the flow of imports into the United States from trusted nations and corporate entities overseas. CBP on Friday, March 23, published a proposed rule in the Federal Register that would make permanent the Remote Location Filing system, which has been in development for more than a decade. The project aims to replace a long-used paper system for processing commercial imports with electronic processing. The new system is expected to enhance foreign officials' ability to process documents and allow for quicker verification of imports. The proposal stated that if, and when, the system expands to more ports, new locations will be announced on the Automated Broker Interface Administrative Message System, and on the CBP Website.

Proposed Rule "Remote Location Filing": <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/07-1330.pdf>

Source: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36443&dcn=to_daysnews

16. **March 22, *USA TODAY* — Drones could defend airports.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the military this summer will test whether drones flying 65,000 feet above the nation's busiest airports could be used to protect planes from being shot down by terrorists with shoulder-fired missiles. Dubbed "Project Chloe", the anti-missile strategy is the latest to be explored by government leaders looking to thwart potential missile threats at commercial airports. Other methods are being considered, but DHS officials say they may be too costly or impractical. The drones, to be tested over the Patuxent River Naval Air Station outside Washington, would be outfitted with missile-warning systems and possibly anti-missile lasers that could send plane-bound missiles veering off course, says Kerry Wilson, a deputy administrator of DHS's anti-missile program. An unmanned plane's warning indicators could pick up the ultraviolet plume from a missile's rocket booster and trigger an anti-missile laser,

which could be shot from the drone or from a site on the ground. That laser would lock on to the missile, essentially blinding it.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2007-03-22-unmanned-drones_N.htm

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Postal and Shipping Sector

17. *March 26, United States Postal Service* — Nation gets sneak peak of the 'Forever' stamp.

The Forever stamp was previewed Monday, March 26, at the National Postal Forum, the premier trade show for advertising, marketing and mailing executives. Featuring the Liberty Bell image and the word "forever," the stamp will be good for mailing one-ounce First-Class letters anytime in the future — regardless of price changes. The Forever stamp goes on sale April 12 at 41 cents. Customers can begin using the stamp when postage changes May 14. Research has shown that customers prefer the Forever stamp for the convenience it offers by easing the transition for mailing letters when prices change. When postage changes in the future, it will reduce the need to buy one- and two-cent stamps.

Source: http://www.usps.com/communications/newsroom/2007/sr07_011.pdf

18. *March 26, Associated Press* — Mail threats, inactive bombs linked to Milwaukee post office.

A person suspected of mailing threatening letters to Milwaukee, WI, area financial firms is apparently the same person who sent at least two inactive bombs to companies in other states, according to a postal investigator who requested the public's help in developing leads. Fifteen letters, including one with a Milwaukee postmark, were sent across the country starting in May 2005, said David Colen, acting assistant inspector of the Chicago division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. The Milwaukee-area companies received letters in October 2005 and March 2006. On January 26, 2007, the suspect sent explosive devices that were intentionally set not to detonate to companies in Denver and Kansas City, MO, Colen said. That triggered a major federal investigation by the Postal Inspection Service, the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The letters contain demands that the individual recipients manipulate stocks to set the share price at \$6.66, Colen said, noting that it would be difficult, if not impossible, for financial managers to do so. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service is offering a reward of up to \$100,000 for information leading to the apprehension of the person(s) responsible:

<http://www.usps.com/postalinspectors/wanted/Bishop.htm>

Source: <http://www.gazetteextra.com/mailthreats032607.asp>

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Agriculture Sector

19. *March 26, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — USDA amends regulations to prohibit interstate movement of citrus nursery stock.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is amending its citrus canker regulations to prohibit, with limited exceptions, the interstate movement of regulated nursery stock from the state of Florida. APHIS is taking this action to clarify its regulations and to address the high

risk of disease spread associated with the interstate movement of nursery stock from areas quarantined for citrus canker. The movement of infected nursery stock has been identified worldwide as a major pathway for the spread of citrus canker. Calamondin and kumquat plants, which are highly resistant to citrus canker, may move interstate from quarantined areas to areas other than commercial citrus-producing areas only if they are shipped from the nursery premises where they originated. In addition, calamondin and kumquat growers must follow prescribed protocols to ensure that their kumquat and calamondin plants are citrus canker free. In addition, the regulations will continue to allow the movement of citrus nursery stock from the quarantined areas for immediate export. This interim rule clarifies a provision in APHIS' August 1, 2006, interim rule that quarantined the entire state of Florida for citrus canker and amended the regulations for fruit movement from quarantined areas.

Source: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2007/03/cnurstock.shtml>

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Food Sector

20. *March 27, Los Angeles Times* — Websites tally more pet deaths related to tainted food.

Hundreds of veterinarians have reported cases of sick and dead dogs and cats related to rat-poison-tainted pet food, a veterinarians' group said Monday, March 26, — far more than reported by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Veterinarians Information Network, a Website of 30,000 veterinarians and veterinary students, said members had reported 471 cases of kidney failure in the 10 days since Canada-based Menu Foods Inc. announced its pet food recall. Last week, the FDA said it had confirmed 14 pet deaths in the U.S. as a result of the recalled food. The recall included 60 million canned and pouch foods from 88 brands. Of the cases reported on the veterinarians' Website, 292 included outcomes: 104 deaths, including at least 11 dogs and 88 cats, with some of the reports not indicating species. The vets reported that 59 pets survived the illnesses and that 129 animals were still being treated.

FDA Website: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01590.html>

Menu Foods Website: <http://www.menufoods.com/recall/>

Veterinarians Information Network: <http://www.vin.com/>

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-petfood27mar27.0.163312.story?coll=la-home-headlines>

21. *March 27, Bloomberg News* — Cloned cattle yield test-tube herds for U.S. sirloins, milk.

Mark Walton, head of the world's largest animal cloning company, sees his biotechnology lab as the next frontier in food production. Nine months ago, scientists at Walton's company extracted genetic information from customers' prized cattle and transferred the DNA into bovine eggs to make embryos. Now, at a 300-acre ranch, surrogate mother cows, carrying the embryos, are giving birth to calves that are clones of the clients' finest cattle. This generation of test-tube bulls and cows may be the first whose elite genes end up in America's meat and milk. U.S. regulators are set to approve the cloning of animals for the food supply as early as this year. This action will open the way for food producers to use copies of genetically superior animals.

Source: http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=aiICRT52_uqBk&refer=us

22. *March 27, USAgNet* — **Russia may import U.S. beef.** Russia could resume beef imports from the U.S. after Russian and U.S. veterinary specialists inspect and accredit U.S. plants that produce, process and storage meat products, according to a report by Russia's Interfax news agency. The report says the head of the Russian food safety watchdog Rosselkhoz nadzor and an advisor with the U.S. Embassy in Russia, Allan Mustard, reached an agreement on the issue on Friday, March 23. Russia hasn't allowed U.S. beef imports since December 2003, when mad cow disease was found in the U.S.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=680&yr=2007>

23. *March 22, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets* — **Possible botulism contamination in sardines.** New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker Thursday, March 22, warned consumers not to eat "Smoked Sardines" sold by Apholo Shippers & Sari-Sari Store in New York, because the product was processed uneviscerated. The product was offered for sale refrigerated, in an un-coded, plastic wrapped foam tray. The sale of this type of fish is prohibited under New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets regulations because Clostridium botulinum spores are more likely to be concentrated in the viscera than any other portion of the fish. Uneviscerated processed fish has been linked to outbreaks of Botulism poisoning. The product may be contaminated with Clostridium botulinum spores, which can cause Botulism, a serious and potentially fatal food-borne illness. The sardines were found by New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets food inspectors during a routine inspection of the firm. No illnesses have been reported to date in connection with the product.

Source: <http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/AD/alert.asp?ReleaseID=684>

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Water Sector

24. *March 26, Associated Press* — **Governor declares water shortage emergency for tribes.**

North Dakota Governor John Hoeven has declared a water shortage emergency for the Three Affiliated Tribes, to free up state resources to help Fort Berthold Reservation residents. National Guard soldiers brought water tanks to the reservation Saturday, March 24, after a drop in water pressure hampered the water distribution system. Hoeven's office said Monday, March 26, that the shortage affects the Four Bears District of the reservation west of New Town, with about 600 people. Residents have been under an order to boil their water since Friday, March 23.

Source: http://www.in-forum.com/ap/index.cfm?page=view&id=D8O43LT00&forumcomm_check_return

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Public Health Sector

25. *March 28, Association of Southeast Asian Nations* — **Rapid-containment exercise will test plans to avert an influenza pandemic.** The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Japanese Government and the World Health Organization (WHO) are to take part in an

exercise designed to test their ability to head off the first signs of a human influenza pandemic. The exercise, known as Panstop 2007, will involve a mock scenario in which Tamiflu and personal protective equipment such as goggles and masks have to be swiftly despatched from an ASEAN-supported stockpile in Singapore to a Southeast Asian country where there are signs of a pandemic strain of influenza emerging. No drugs or other material will actually be moved in the drill, which will be a test of rapid containment, involving risk assessment, communications, and decision-making between the partners. On the ASEAN side, the partners will be ASEAN Member Country Cambodia and the ASEAN Secretariat, as well as the Japan International Cooperation System (JICS), acting as the agent for ASEAN. On the Japanese side, the exercise will involve the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The two-day drill will be facilitated from the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific in Manila, Philippines, from April 2 to 3, 2007.

Source: <http://www.aseansec.org/Press-AvianFlu.htm>

26. *March 27, Reuters* — **World moves closer to eradicating guinea worm.** Another 12 countries have been certified free of guinea worm and the world could be free of the parasitic disease within two years, the United Nations health agency said on Tuesday, March 27. While some three million people suffered from the blight in the early 1980s, the World Health Organization (WHO) said it now affects about 25,000 people in nine African countries, with most prevalence in Sudan and Ghana. Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Djibouti, Tanzania, Zambia, Gabon, Swaziland, Mozambique, Cameroon, Algeria and the Central African Republic have stamped out the disease, also known as dracunculiasis, which spreads in contaminated water. Guinea worm causes large ulcers, normally in the lower leg, that can swell to the size of a tennis ball and burst, releasing a spaghetti-like parasitic worm. Burning pain often prompts victims to jump into nearby water holes, which can be their communities' only source of drinking water. The worm then releases thousands of larvae which are ingested by water fleas that spread the disease further. The disease remains in Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Sudan and Togo. Sudan has an estimated 20,000 cases and Ghana has about 4,000, the WHO said.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSL2716034920070327>

27. *March 27, Reuters* — **Indonesia to resume sharing bird flu virus samples.** Indonesia agreed on Tuesday, March 27, to resume sending virus samples to the World Health Organization (WHO) after a breakthrough pact between the WHO and developing nations on access to bird flu and other influenza vaccines. The agreement ended a stand-off between Jakarta and the WHO that began in December when Indonesia refused to share samples of the H5N1 avian influenza virus unless it had guarantees they would not be used commercially. There are no commercially available vaccines for bird flu, though several companies are working to produce them. Tuesday's agreement, which came at the end of a two-day meeting between WHO and health officials from 18 nations, will be taken up at a ministerial meeting on Wednesday, March 28.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/SP124605.htm>

28. *March 27, New York Times* — **Scientists hope vigilance stymies avian flu mutations.** The virus, H5N1, which was first isolated in humans in 1997, has not started a pandemic in a full decade, so a few flu experts think it never will. But the mainstream view is less optimistic. Viruses mutate constantly, many experts point out. And when one has already acquired the

ability to jump species, occasionally spread from human to human and kill 60 percent of the people who catch it, it is far too early to dismiss it. So even though the human death toll from H5N1 is still below 200, scientists around the world are racing to study the ways in which it might mutate to spread easily among humans. Flus mutate incessantly wherever they move, and in viral samples from Asia, the Middle East and Africa, many individual changes that look potentially dangerous have been spotted. In May 2005, for example, the virus in China escaped in migratory birds going north and traveled across Russia, Europe and Africa. It became known as the Qinghai strain. The Qinghai strain has a mutation known as PB2 E627K. The change helps the virus grow at the temperatures found in human noses, which are cooler than the insides of birds' intestines. The strain has reached 50 countries.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2007/03/27/health/27flu.html?_r=1&dp c&oref=slogin

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Government Sector

29. *March 27, Associated Press* — **UN security stepped up after bomb threat.** Security was stepped up at the United Nations (UN) headquarters in New York City as a precaution on Tuesday, March 27, following a bomb threat, a spokesperson said. "The New York Police Department received an unconfirmed bomb threat so the UN stepped up security as a precautionary measure," said UN associate Farhan Haq. Just before 10 a.m., a line of about 10 New York City police cars, their lights flashing, were on First Avenue just outside UN headquarters. At UN entrances, security staff were checking the bags of all UN staff. Sniffer dogs, permanently based there, were also on patrol. By early afternoon, no incident had been reported. The UN's landmark 39-story headquarters building was reported to be a terrorist target following the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2007-03-27-UN-threat_N.htm

30. *March 26, Department of Homeland Security* — **DHS awards \$8.8 million for exploratory research on advanced nuclear detection technology.** The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) announced ten contract awards Monday, March 26, totaling \$8.8 million to nine companies that will perform exploratory research in advanced nuclear detection technology. The Exploratory Research Program is designed to transform nuclear detection technology by funding aggressive research and development that is unconstrained by pre-existing user expectations and initial technical risks. Each contract consists of multiple phases, including an advanced technology demonstration, before potentially transitioning to a systems development and acquisition program. Successful technologies will be deployed to provide port-of-entry (POE) and non-POE radiological and nuclear detection capability. Earlier this year, DHS announced the award of Exploratory Research Cooperative Agreements with Academia totaling approximately \$3.1 million to make significant advances in basic nuclear detection technology.

Source: http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1174940537634.shtm

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Emergency Services Sector

31. *March 26, GovExec* — **Audit: Emergency communications project imperiled.** A partnership between the departments of Justice and Homeland Security to create an interoperable wireless communications network for police and first responders has fallen apart and the project is imperiled, according to an audit released Monday, March 26. The report from the Justice Department's inspector general office stated that despite more than six years of development and \$195 million in funding, the Integrated Wireless Network project "does not appear to be on the path to providing the seamless interoperable communications system that was envisioned." The two agencies now appear to be pursuing separate solutions, the report said. The Treasury department is also involved in the project, but has a smaller percentage of potential users. Uncertain and disparate funding mechanisms, the fractured partnership and a poor governing structure are all causes for the project's high-risk status, the report stated. The audit found that Justice has been spending more money to maintain its existing communications system instead of developing new wireless solutions as part of the network project.
Report: <http://www.usdoj.gov/oig/reports/OBD/a0725/final.pdf>
Source: [http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36454&dcn=to daysnews](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36454&dcn=to%20daysnews)
32. *March 25, WNBC-TV (NY)* — **FDNY conducts counter-terrorism drill.** The Fire Department of New York (FDNY) and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) joined Sunday, March 25, for a major counter-terrorism drill in Queens, NY. They gathered early Sunday morning at Jamaica station for the exercise, which consisted of a simulated bombing onboard a Long Island Rail Road train, NewsChannel 4 reported. About 150 New York firefighters and medical staff tended to the mock casualties, while 50 MTA officers had their hands full dealing with a simulated explosive device.
Source: http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?section_Id=46&id=53994
33. *March 22, Newsday (NY)* — **New data finds New York Guard short on supplies.** If Long Island, NY, were hit with a major hurricane, debilitating shortages of equipment could potentially slow response by the New York Army National Guard and put lives in jeopardy. New data from the Guard shows that the vehicles needed to traverse water-logged streets and to transport medicine and supplies after a natural disaster are in short supply. Only 35 percent of the Guard's authorized Humvees and cargo trucks, for instance, are currently available in New York. Radio equipment is at less than half the authorized levels. Five years after grueling deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, the Guard in New York, as elsewhere in the country, is under huge strains balancing warfighting, guarding the homeland, and responding to natural disasters. New York Deputy Secretary for Public Safety Michael Balboni acknowledged the Guard's degraded capabilities, but said there is no immediate crisis. In the event of a hurricane or other disaster, many other agencies would respond, he said.
Source: <http://www.amny.com/news/nationworld/nation/ny-usguar0323.0.47481.story>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

34. *March 26, US-CERT* — **Exploit code available for Microsoft ADODB.Connection ActiveX control.** US-CERT is aware of publicly available exploit code for a vulnerability in the Microsoft ADODB.Connection ActiveX Control. The vulnerability in the ADODB.Connection

ActiveX object causes memory corruption, and may allow a remote, unauthenticated attacker to cause Internet Explorer to crash or potentially execute arbitrary code.

Vulnerability Note VU#589272– ADODB.Connection ActiveX control memory corruption vulnerability: <http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/589272>

Microsoft Security Bulletin MS07–009:

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/Bulletin/MS07–009.msp>

Source: http://www.us-cert.gov/current/current_activity.html#ADODBActiveX

35. *March 26, US–CERT* — Vulnerability in NETxAutomation NETxEIB OPC Server.

US–CERT is aware of a vulnerability that affects the NETxAutomation NETxEIB OPC Server. Specifically, the server fails to properly verify OPC server handles. An attacker with access to the NETxEIB OPC Server may be able to arbitrarily access server process memory and potentially execute arbitrary code or cause a denial of service.

Vulnerability Note VU#296593 – NETxAutomation NETxEIB OPC Server fails to properly validate OPC server handles: <http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/296593>

Neutralbit Security Advisory NB07–22: <http://neutralbit.com/advisories/NB07–22.txt>

Source: http://www.us-cert.gov/current/current_activity.html#OPCServ er

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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General Sector

36. *March 27, Associated Press* — Guilty plea from terror suspect at Guantanamo. An

Australian accused of helping the Taliban fight the U.S.–led invasion of Afghanistan pleaded guilty Monday, March 26, to providing material support for terrorism. David Hicks, 31, was the first of hundreds of Guantanamo detainees to make such a plea at the U.S. Navy base since the first terror suspects were brought there in 2002. The United States has agreed to let Hicks serve any sentence in Australia. According to the charge sheet, Hicks spent weeks trying to join the fight in Afghanistan alongside the Taliban against invading U.S. forces and their Northern Alliance allies, but the Taliban's lines collapsed barely two hours after he reached the front. He was armed with grenades and an assault rifle and his menial assignments along the way included guarding a tank. The count he pleaded guilty to says he intentionally provided support to a terror organization involved in hostilities against the U.S. He denied the charge that he supported for preparation, or in carrying out, an act of terrorism.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2007/03/27/ap3553900.html>

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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